United Nations ST/IC/2002/29

Secretariat

10 May 2002

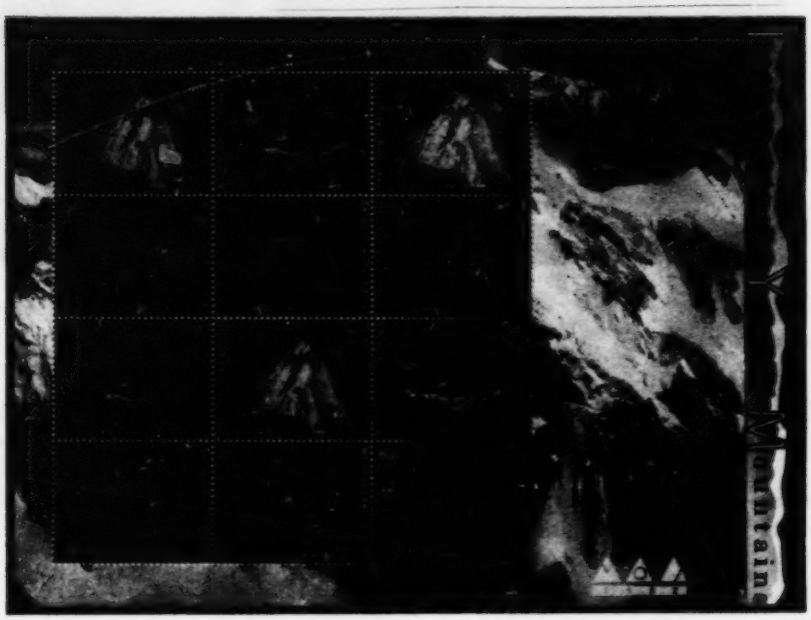
Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 24 May 2002: "International Year of Mountains"**

1. The General Assembly has proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains. The main objective is to increase national awareness of the global importance of mountain ecosystems as the origin of valuable resources, such as water, energy and biological diversity, as well as centres of culture and recreation.



* Expiration date of the present information circular: 7 June 2002.

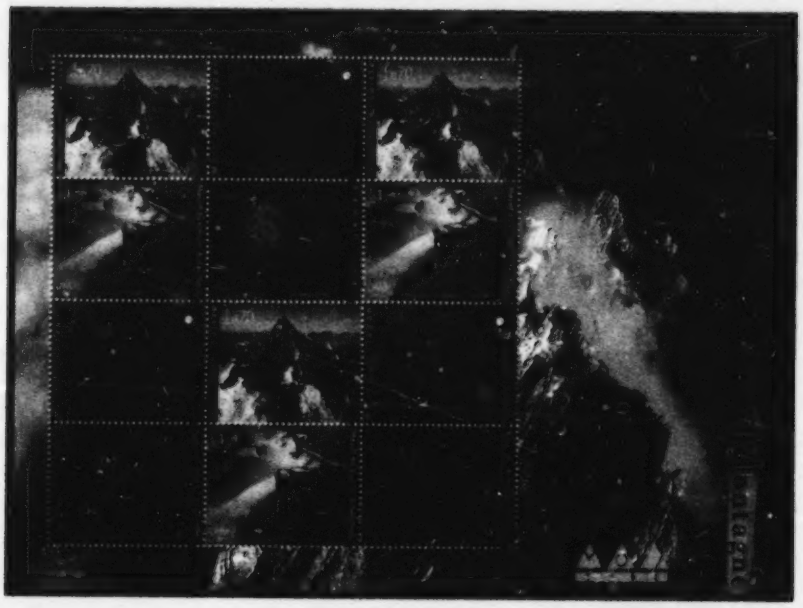
02-37754 (E) 150502

Commemorative stamps

2. On Friday, 24 May 2002, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 commemorative stamps on the theme "International Year of Mountains". The denominations will be $0.34, $0.80, SwF 0.70, SwF 1.20, € 0.22 and € 0.51. (*Note*: The mint stamps will be sold only in a full sheet of 12 stamps or a single unit of 2 different vertical pairs.)

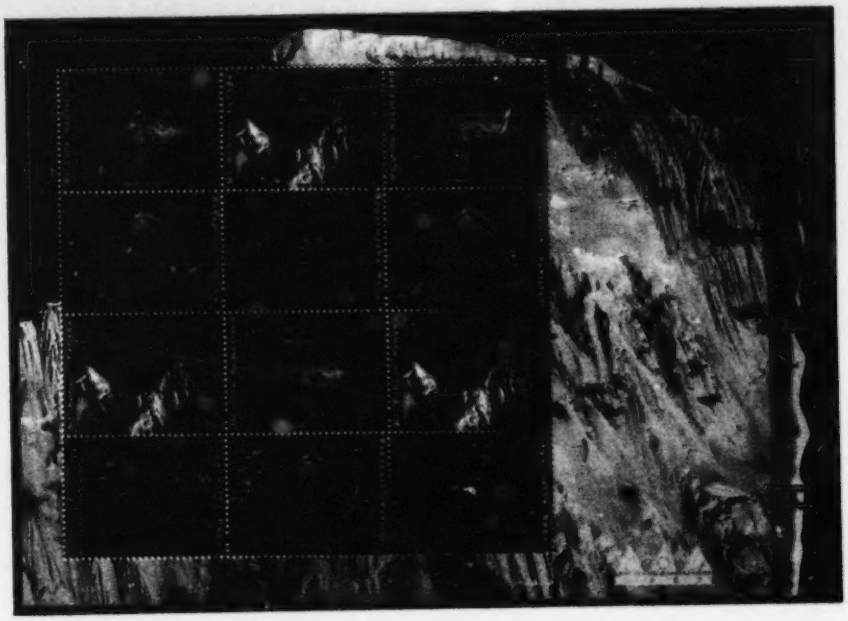
(United States equivalents — SwF 0.70: $0.42; SwF 1.20: $0.73; € 0.22: $0.20 and € 0.51: $0.45, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

3. The photographs were taken by Yoshikazu Shirakawa (Japan) and were adapted as stamps by Robert Stein and Rorie Katz (United Nations).



Maximum cards

4. The twenty-third set of UNPA maximum cards will also be issued on 24 May 2002. Six maximum cards will be produced, two from each office, and will be affixed with the respective low- and high-value denominations. The two maximum cards cancelled United Nations New York will sell for $2.88. The cancelled United Nations Geneva cards are priced at $2.91 a set, and the two cancelled United Nations Vienna cards are priced at $1.90, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.



General information

5. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first day covers on the UNPA official first day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 24 May, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) The counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

7. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.